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Message Text

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PAGE 01 THESSA 00210 281602Z

51
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2294
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L THESSALONIKI 0210

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, PINS, GR
SUBJECT: GOG DEFENSE OFFICIAL VISITS NORTHERN GREECE

1. ALL THESSALONIKI PAPERS MARCH 28 CARRIED REPORTS OF VISITS PREVIOUS DAY BY UNDER SECRETARY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE KATSADIMAS, A RETIRED GENERAL AND FORMER ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF, TO MILITARY UNITS IN XANTHI, KAVALLA AND THESSALONIKI. AT EACH POINT, ACCORDING TO PRESS, KATSADIMAS SPOKE TO ASSEMBLED OFFICERS (HIS YOUNGER BROTHER IS DEPUTY COMMANDER OF ELEVENTH DIVISION IN KAVALLA). "ELLINIKOS VORRAS" REPORTS THAT KATSADIMAS STRESSED TO HIS AUDIENCES THAT EXAMINATION OF OFFICERS' RECORDS FOR JUNTA AFFILIATION "HAS BEEN DEFINITELY TERMINATED" AND THAT IN PRESENT CRUCIAL PERIOD ALL OFFICERS SHOULD DEDICATE THEMSELVES TO "COUNTRY, DUTY AND DEMOCRACY".

2. COMMENT: THIS, THE LATEST OF SEVERAL PERIODIC VISITS KATSADIMAS HAS MADE TO THIS AREA, PROBABLY REFLECTS CONTINUING OFFICIAL CONCERN OVER LOYALTY OF OFFICER CORPS AND DESIRE REASSURE LATTER AS TO ITS SECURITY AND FUTURE STATUS.
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